Saskmilk

Newsletter
December 2013

Chairman's Message

by Mel Foth

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I want to wish SaskMilk members and families as well as SaskMilk Staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope the weather cooperates, you have good health, and that your cows cooperate and milk well during this Christmas season.

I am still trying to get used to being Chair of the SaskMilk Board and all the responsibility that comes with this position. I want to thank the staff for all the help they have given me adjusting to this role, and the board for being gracious in allowing me time to learn in this new position. David Entz is the new Vice-Chair and has been very supportive and helpful as we are learning to work together as a somewhat different board.

The Board is continuing our work on Strategic Planning and governance, and is committed to continue to work in these areas with the help of a facilitator. As a board we need to work at building positive and strong working relationships with our CEO and staff, as well as representing our members well in our role managing the Dairy Industry in Saskatchewan and Canada. We are committed to work hard at building a united team.

I want to thank our dairy farmers for participating in the petition on the Milk Compositional Standards that has been sent to the Minister of Agriculture. We will be meeting with the Ministry and Saputo on Jan. 10th on this important topic, and will be prepared to continue to represent the industry in this matter. Our priority is ensuring that we protect the integrity of milk for both the consumers and producers. We expect to receive more information from the Ministry prior to the meeting, and will be working with other industry stakeholders in preparation as well.

It is positive to see growth in the consumption of dairy products in Canada and some additional quota for producers. Although we are flat or down on fluid milk sales, there is growth in yogurt and cheese and very strong growth in butter during the last year.

I understand that producers are being validated and registered on CQM and just want to remind everyone that the bonus for registration on CQM will come into effect on Feb. 1st, so please phone Deb or the office to make sure we are aware of everyone who is ready to proceed. *(con't page 2)*

Chairman's Message Cont'd

I want to welcome our 'New Entrants' that have joined us this past year (I know we had a new one start shipping this last week in my area). We want to be there to help wherever we can, and we wish you all the best as you become established in this industry.

I was pleased to see that the penalty money that has come in to SaskMilk during the first quarter is way down - this is very good to see. I want to encourage producers to continue providing a really good quality product from our farms and also continue to ensure that animal care issues are dealt with quickly and effectively. The largest percentage of our producers do an excellent job of looking after their animals, but we must always be vigilant and remember that we are judged by our weakest links.

Finally, I want to encourage everyone to participate in the election of a new board member; we look forward to adding one more voice to the board.

I look forward to continuing to serve you and again wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

SaskMilk Producer Ambassador Program

Do you believe in your industry? Want to share your enthusiasm with others? Then please consider talking to me about the SaskMilk Producer Ambassador Program!

What is this, you might ask? This is an exciting program that we will be developing over the next year where we would like to help producers become spokespeople for the Saskatchewan dairy industry! Don't worry, we aren't going to just throw you 'in' unprepared! We will be taking the time to talk to you, get you whatever training you need to feel comfortable talking to the public, to the media, or to anyone else that needs some help understanding how great our industry is.

In the current environment, where supply management is being questioned, trade deals are coming down the road, and many consumers don't know or understand what producers do and how the system works, we need to be available and accessible as CHAMPIONS of our industry – and nobody is a better champion than you, the producer!

This will not require a big time commitment, honestly – we just want to give you the tools you need to be an ambassador, and build a network of producers that we can communicate with and call on if the need arises.

Please contact me at #306-721-9482 or Joy.Smith@saskmilk.ca to get more information – no commitment, let's just chat and see if it might interest you! Thanks in advance everyone!

-Joy Smith, SaskMilk Manager of Policy & Communications

Western Economic Diversification Funds SaskMilk Research

L-R: Ryan Boughen, SaskMilk CEO; Dr. John Campbell, U of S; Mel Foth, SaskMilk Chair; Jack Ford, SaskMilk Director;MP Brad Trost

On November 29th, Western Economic Diversification announced $50,000 of funding towards equipment needed to develop a vaccine for heel wart (bovine digital dermatitis). The announcement was made by Brad Trost, Member of Parliament for Saskatoon-Humboldt, on behalf of the Honourable Michelle Rempel, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification.

"Our Government is committed to ensuring Western Canada's agricultural sector has the resources to succeed in the global economy and continue creating jobs for Canadians," said MP Trost. "We are proud to invest in new technologies that strengthen the productivity and competitiveness of the western Canadian dairy industry."

Heel wart significantly decreases dairy and beef production and results in approximately $50 million in losses to the Canadian industry every year.

"We are very pleased with this federal funding," said Mel Foth, Chairman of SaskMilk. "This is an excellent opportunity to develop a vaccine that will address a key barrier to dairy productivity, and would significantly improve animal health and longevity, as well as increase industry revenue. We are adding our financial commitment to this project as well and look forward to continued partnerships that result in research and industry growth."

Equipment to be purchased includes a bacterial incubator, equipment for DNA amplification before sequencing, refrigerated bench top centrifuge, refrigerated micro centrifuge for sample processing and freezers for sample storage. The equipment will be installed in a laboratory at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM). Scientists from the University of Saskatchewan will use the equipment to produce two prototype vaccines for further testing, with the expectation that one will be patented and commercialized. The commercialization of this new vaccine will create jobs within the dairy and beef industries and the research community.

QUOTA EXCHANGE

The market-clearing price established for the December 2013 Quota Exchange was **$33,500.00**.

The next Quota Exchange will be held on **January 15, 2014**. All offers to sell and bids to purchase quota through the Quota Exchange must be received at the SaskMilk office by midnight, **January 6, 2014**. SaskMilk recommends that offers and bids be submitted well in advance of the deadline date to ensure adequate time for corrections, if necessary.

When making bids on the Quota Exchange, the price on offers to sell quota is the minimum price that the producer is prepared to accept for that quota. Only if the market-clearing price is equal to or greater than the producer's minimum price will that producer qualify for participation in the Exchange. Conversely, the price on offers to purchase quota is the maximum price that the producer is prepared to pay for that quota. Only if the market-clearing price is equal to or less than the producer's maximum price will that producer qualify for participation in the Exchange. The clearing price is set at the price where the smallest difference exists between the accumulated volume offered for sale and the accumulated volume bid to purchase.

The results of the Quota Exchange are outlined in the following Table.

DECEMBER 2013 QUOTA EXCHANGE RESULTS SUMMARY

Market Clearing Price per kilogram of butterfat	**$ 33,500.00**	
Daily Kilograms offered to Purchase		**69.92**
Kilograms offered to Sell		**20.14**
Kilograms sold		**10.00**
Number of Producers		
- offered to purchase	**7**	
- purchased quota	**1**	
- offered to sell	**4**	
- sold quota	**3**	

DECEMBER 2013 QUOTA EXCHANGE CLEARING PRICE RESULTS

Price ($/daily kg b.f.)	No. of Sellers	Cumulative Sellers	Daily Kgs b.f. offered for sale	Cumulative sales	Cumulative Sales less Cumulative purchases	Cumulative purchases	Daily Kgs b.f. offered to purchase	Cumulative Buyers	No. of buyers
$31,000.00	0	0	0.00	0.00	-69.92	69.92	5.80	7	1
$32,000.00	1	1	2.52	2.52	-61.60	64.12	10.00	6	1
$33,000.00	1	2	3.58	6.10	-48.02	54.12	10.00	5	1
$33,100.00	0	2	0.00	6.10	-38.02	44.12	14.12	4	1
$33,200.00	0	2	0.00	6.10	-23.90	30.00	10.00	3	1
$33,250.00	0	2	0.00	6.10	-13.90	20.00	10.00	2	1
$33,500.00	**1**	**3**	**8.82**	**14.92**	**4.92**	**10.00**	**10.00**	**1**	**1**
$35,000.00	1	4	5.22	20.14	20.14	0.00	0.00	0	0

*** Please contact Bev Solie at 306-949-6999 for inquiries dealing with quota management sheets, the Quota Exchange, for transfer credits, or with any other quota transactions.**

TRANSFER CREDIT SUMMARY REPORT

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS TRANSFER IN	# OF PRODUCERS TRANSFER OUT	TOTAL KGS BUTTERFAT
November	25	22	21,887
December	27	23	29,882
January, 2013	14	17	13,158
February	16	15	10,369
March	19	18	14,543
April	14	15	8,912
May	11	10	6,139
June	16	11	12,221
July	14	10	8,560
August	16	14	13,911
September	13	12	12,097
October	18	14	14,374
November	18	16	14,816

PRIVATE TRANSFERS PROCESSED

MONTH	DAILY KILOGRAMS
Dec	25.24
Jan-2013	41.98
Feb	0.00
Mar	81.66
Apr	59.62
May	20.00
June	17.00
July	0.00
Aug	111.00
Sept	22.00
Oct	0.00
Nov	10.00

OVER QUOTA (OVER 5 DAYS) REPORT BY MONTH

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS	KGS BUTTERFAT
November	13	2,403
December	15	2,847
January, 2013	19	4,848
February	17	3,436
March	21	4,621
April	11	1,303
May	11	846
June	10	655
July	8	2,058
August	8	1,145
September	7	653
October	8	563
November	11	1,375

SUMMARY REPORT OF CREDITS November, 2013 – 166 PRODUCERS

DAYS	# OF PRODUCERS	POSITIVE CREDITS ACCUMULATED (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)
+ 5	11	5,054
0 to + 5	40	16,841
TOTAL	51	21,895
DAYS	**# OF PRODUCERS**	**NEGATIVE CREDITS ACCUMULATED (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)**
-15	14	-21,647
-10 to -15	27	-55,013
-5 to -10	42	-45,371
0 to -5	32	-11,557
TOTAL	115	-133,588

LOST OPPORTUNITY REPORT

MONTH	# OF PRODUCERS	LOST OPPORTUNITY (KGS OF BUTTERFAT)
November	13	7,449
December	13	6,389
January, 2013	10	4,550
February	11	4,520
March	10	3,572
April	13	3,960
May	14	6,967
June	11	6,596
July	13	9,398
August	14	7,625
September	19	6,589
October	16	6,941
November	11	1,979

WEIGHTED AVERAGE COMPONENT TESTS & PRICES November, 2013

Components	Average Test	Price per kilogram Class 1 to 5
Butterfat	4.1202	12.647860
Protein	3.4723	9.647864
Other Solids	5.7018	1.468841

Based on the average component tests for the province, the average price received was **$93.9869** per hectolitre. **The average butterfat price received per kilogram was $22.77**

SASKATCHEWAN MILK POOL RESULTS November 2013

Milk Sale Revenue	$ 15,835,176.32
Western Milk Pool	$ 1,500,050.71
Plant of Last Resort Service	$ (57,444.51)
Total Pool Value	**$ 17,277,782.52**

In November, Saskatchewan had a monthly CDC allocation of **770,745 kilograms** of butterfat. In the month of November, Saskatchewan production was **-11,948** of butterfat **under** and cumulatively **under** by **-60,135 kilograms** of butterfat. On a percentage basis, Saskatchewan is **-0.67%** within our CDC allocation flexibility limits based on the Continuous Quota model. The -1.50% lower flexibility limit is in effect.

	(1) Monthly Total Production Kgs bf	(2) Total Monthly CDC Quota Allocation Kgs bf	(3) Monthly Over or (Under) Production Kgs bf col. 1 – 2 = 3	(4) Lower Flexibility Limit **(1.5%)** Kgs bf col. 9 * -1.5%	(5) Upper Flexibility Limit **1.0%** Kgs bf col. 9 *1.0%	(6) Cumulative Over or (Under) Production with limits Kgs bf	(7) Cumulative Over or (Under) Production with limits in - % col. 6 / 9	(8) Over Quota or (Lost Production Opportunity) Kgs bf	(9) Rolling 12 Month Total Quota Kgs bf
Nov-12	739,624	763,489	(23,866)	(135,022)	45,007	**(115,477)**	**-1.28%**	0	9,001,456
Dec-12	775,085	787,512	(12,427)	(134,977)	44,992	**(126,691)**	**-1.41%**	0	8,998,476
Jan-13	788,550	767,300	21,251	(134,846)	44,949	**(100,685)**	**-1.12%**	0	8,989,708
Feb-13	712,149	695,378	16,771	(134,400)	44,800	**(84,357)**	**-0.94%**	0	8,960,033
Mar-13	782,825	767,146	15,680	(134,368)	44,789	**(69,000)**	**-0.77%**	0	8,957,872
Apr-13	746,839	740,033	6,806	(134,442)	44,814	**(62,444)**	**-0.70%**	0	8,962,781
May-13	754,967	753,453	1,515	(134,427)	44,809	**(60,815)**	**-0.68%**	0	8,961,796
Jun-13	725,872	721,132	4,740	(134,402)	44,801	**(54,515)**	**-0.61%**	0	8,960,160
Jul-13	734,662	730,741	3,922	(134,525)	44,842	**(50,515)**	**-0.56%**	0	8,968,338
Aug-13	759,353	743,937	15,416	(134,654)	44,885	**(35,322)**	**-0.39%**	0	8,976,941
Sep-13	743,013	737,951	5,061	(134,773)	44,924	**(34,067)**	**-0.38%**	0	8,984,855
Oct-13	782,805	796,837	(14,032)	(135,081)	45,027	**(48,227)**	**-0.54%**	0	9,005,391
Nov-13	758,797	770,745	(11,948)	(135,189)	45,063	**(60,135)**	**-0.67%**	0	9,012,580

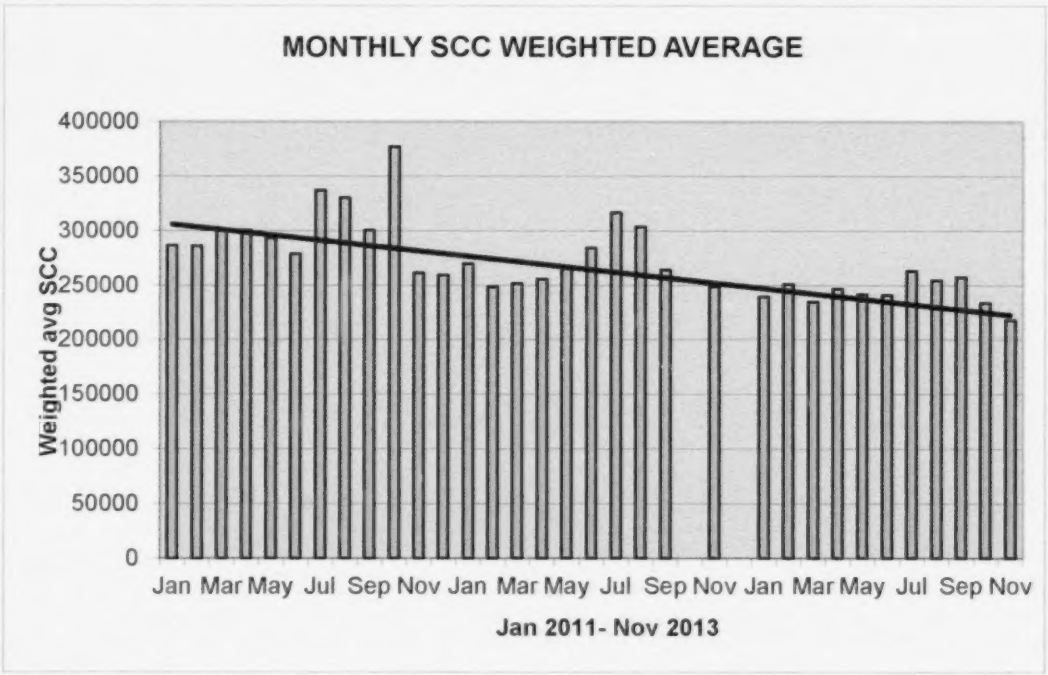
(1) Monthly Production in Saskatchewan
(2) Total Monthly Quota = Class 1 sales + Monthly MSQ + Carry Forward
(3) Difference between the monthly production (1) and the total monthly quota (2)
(4) The Lower Flexibility Limit is -1.5% of Rolling 12 Month Total Quota (9)
(5) The Upper Flexibility Limit is 1.0% of Rolling 12 Month Total Quota (9)
(6) Previous Month Cumulative Over or (Under) Production + Current Monthly Over or (Under) Production (capped at lower or upper limit if applicable)
(7) Equal to Column (6) expressed as a percentage basis within the flexibility limits
(8) Over Quota or (Lost production opportunity) outside of flexibility limits
(9) Total Monthly CDC Quota Allocation for the previous 12 months

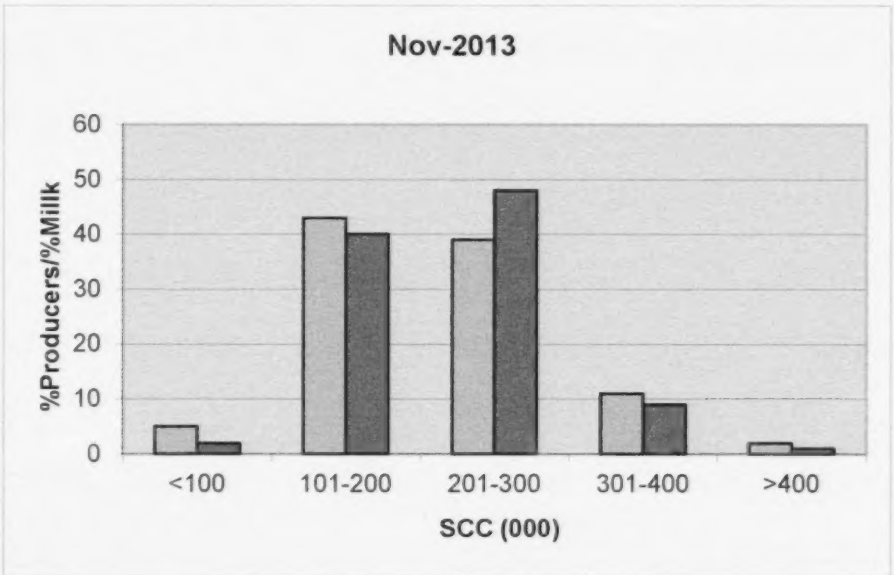
SCC LIMIT NOW 400,000

Effective January 1, 2013, the SCC limit has changed to 400,000. Penalties and violations will be applied based on the new limit.

The following graphs provide producers with an overview of the Provincial Somatic Cell Count weighted average on a monthly basis as well as a breakdown of the % of producers in each SCC level for the month of November 2013.

If you have any questions or comments you can contact: Deb Haupstein at 306-721-9486.





INHIBITOR TEST STATIONS

SaskMilk has established a number of inhibitor test stations around the province. Producers needing to check their bulk tanks for inhibitors can take a sample to the test station closest to their location.

Charm test strips are available to test for:
Beta-Lactams- the Charm 3 SL3 Beta Lactam test strip tests for amoxicillin, ampicillin, ceftiofur, cephapirin, cloxacillin, and penicillin G

Tetracyclines- the Charm Tetracycline test strip tests for chlortetracycline, oxytetracycline and tetracycline.

Sulfas- the Charm Sulfa test strip tests for sulfacetamide, sulfachlorpyridazine, sulfadiazine, sulfadimethoxine, sulfadoxine, sulfaethoxypyridazine, sulfamerazine, sulfamethazine, sulfamethizole, sulfamethoxazole, sulfamethoxypyridazine, sulfapyridine, sulfaquinoxaline, sulfathiazole,and sulfisoxazole.

Test stations are located at the following locations:

1. Swift Current, SK - Agrifoods truck bay - 675 Cheadle Street West
   Office 306-773-1991 or Rodger Ruf 306-741-3261
2. Harris, SK - Cairnside Farm – Wes Cairns 306-665-4807
3. Star City, SK - Star City Colony - Reuben Tschetter 306-921-9381
4. Grenfell, SK - Jim Ross 306-697-2232
5. Yorkton, SK - Ford Dairy Farms Inc. - Bud and Margaret Ford 306-782-7240
6. Saskatoon, SK – Agrifoods Truck Bay - east of the Saputo plant receiving bay
   lead hand - Jim or Clint 306-664-0202 after hours: 306-668-8135

Charm tests strips and Charm testers are now available for purchase through SaskMilk. Agrifoods is now carrying SNAP test kits for tetracyclines as well as beta lactams.

For further information you can contact: Deb Haupstein 306-721-9486

If You Can't Ship It - Test It!

BSE surveillance is still important and every animal tested makes a difference.

Support your cattle industry by having your 4-D (dead, diseased, dying or downer) cattle tested for BSE.

For more information, call the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-877-727-5273.

Code of Practice

1.1.2 Heifers, Milking Cows and Dry Cows

Heifers

Weaned heifers are generally housed in groups appropriate to their size. Heifers often have access to the outdoors. However, other housing practices are used as well (e.g., tethering). Little research has been done to examine the effects of housing on the welfare of weaned heifers (19).

Milking Cows

Choices in housing design and construction of facilities have a direct influence on cow comfort. Cow behavior and health can be used as gauges of cow comfort (2). The choices producers make in housing and management have an impact on the welfare of cows and hence the profitability of a dairy farm. Flaws in design or construction features can lead to welfare and health outcomes like traumatic injuries, sore feet, mastitis or metabolic diseases (3).

Fear-based behaviors can also lead to health and welfare issues. Cows may exhibit fearful or apprehensive behavior if:

- facilities are unsafe
- they experience pain as a result of facility features (e.g., improperly placed neck rails, poor flooring, obstacles)
- approached by a dominant cow or otherwise have their comfort zone invaded
- the cow does not cope well with features of the equipment or facility (e.g., lack of lighting, noise from air-operated gates, slippery floor surfaces) (3).

Cow walking patterns can also be used as indicators of cow comfort and to identify inadequacies of flooring and lighting. A healthy cow places the rear foot into the position vacated by the front foot on the same side. Slippery floors or dark conditions can alter a cow's walking behavior, placing greater stress on the outside claw (2).

The adoption of housing and management practices that reduce environmental risk factors for disease, and improve cattle health and welfare is encouraged (3).

Dry Cows

Dry cows are generally housed in groups and often have access to the outdoors via pasture or dry lots. However, other housing practices are used as well (e.g. tethering). Little research has been done to examine the effects of housing on the welfare of dry cows.

REQUIREMENTS

Housing must allow cattle to easily stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures, and have visual contact with other cattle.

Cattle must have a bed that provides comfort, insulation, warmth, dryness and traction. Bare concrete is not acceptable as a resting surface.

RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES (HEIFERS, MILKING AND DRY COWS)

a. provide bedding even when using mattresses
b. provide flooring with good traction to prevent slipping and falling
c. provide non-abrasive flooring material where long travel routes may cause excessive claw wear
d. provide soft, high traction flooring in areas where cattle stand for long periods
e. provide restraint facilities for ease of management and handling (e.g., use self-locking stanchions or head gates at the feed bunk)
f. provide opportunities for all cattle to exercise daily, if weather permits
g. be aware of behaviors that indicate an animal is feeling unsafe or fearful and rectify issues
h. inspect cattle for injuries that indicate hazards in barns (e.g., hair loss, abrasions or swellings on legs, necks or other body parts)
i. observe animal walking patterns and monitor gait scores to assess floors for traction and surface conditions (e.g., level, abrasiveness, obstructions)
j. repair housing defects (e.g., broken stall partitions, concrete or other protrusions)
k. ensure access routes to the milking parlor are free of hazards and consistently illuminated such that the cattle can see where they are going
l. design facilities to allow for easy moving and grouping of animals.

Antibiotic Stewardship in Livestock Production

Leigh Rosengren DVM, PhD. Rosengren Epidemiology Consulting Ltd. Midale SK leigh.rosengren@vetepi.com

What is Antibiotic Resistance?

Bacteria natural evolve to make normally active concentrations of antibiotics ineffective. Resistance is not the same as antibiotic residues.

What causes resistance?

Any antibiotic use can select for resistance. Antibiotics do not kill all the bacteria in an animal and those remaining can develop resistance.

So what differentiates appropriate from inappropriate use?

All use can cause resistance. So appropriate use is when the benefit to the animal outweighs the societal cost. Obviously this is hard to measure but society considers growth promotion unnecessary. Also, antibiotics critically important to human medicine should be used cautiously as resistance has a high societal cost.

Are consumers at risk from resistant bacteria ?

Yes, resistant bacteria are a growing problem in health care. Exposure from livestock is also a concern. Few Canadians live or work on farms so for most *people exposure is through meat.*

What is the food safety issue?

Resistant bacteria are eliminated by proper food handling and preparation. If this doesn't happen, a small but real risk exists. The primary concerns are foodborne exposure to resistant *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*.

Why should I be concerned about antibiotic resistance?

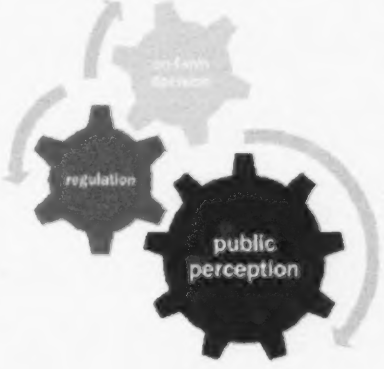
Our access to antibiotics is a privilege. It enables us to protect the welfare of our stock. Globally, antibiotic use regulations are tightening . Consumers are increasingly concerned. We need to maintain society's trust by demonstrating agriculture uses this resource properly.

What is antibiotic stewardship?

A commitment to only use antibiotics when necessary. When required it is using the right drug, dose and route. The objective is to preserve antibiotic efficacy. A veterinarian is invaluable in making these decisions.

How can I be involved?

Stay informed and confidently speak out. Remember your antibiotic use decisions have effects beyond the farm gate. Work closely with your veterinarian to follow regulations, meet on-farm needs, and build consumer confidence.



Elvin Haupstein
2014 Inductee into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame

SaskMilk is pleased to share the news that our own Elvin Haupstein has been accepted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame. This is a great tribute to Elvin; one that makes our entire industry proud.

Elvin grew up on a dairy farm, and after achieving his BscA degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 1958, he returned to dairy farming with his wife Nellie. Over the course of his dairy career, spanning over 50 years, Elvin served in various capacities on farm organizations that represented the Saskatchewan dairy industry. As the industry continued to evolve its organizational and governance models, Elvin's open-minded participation in industry evolution was evident by this wide range of involvement. Elvin's participation was not limited just to Saskatchewan, as he also served his industry in many roles in regional or national organizations and committees.

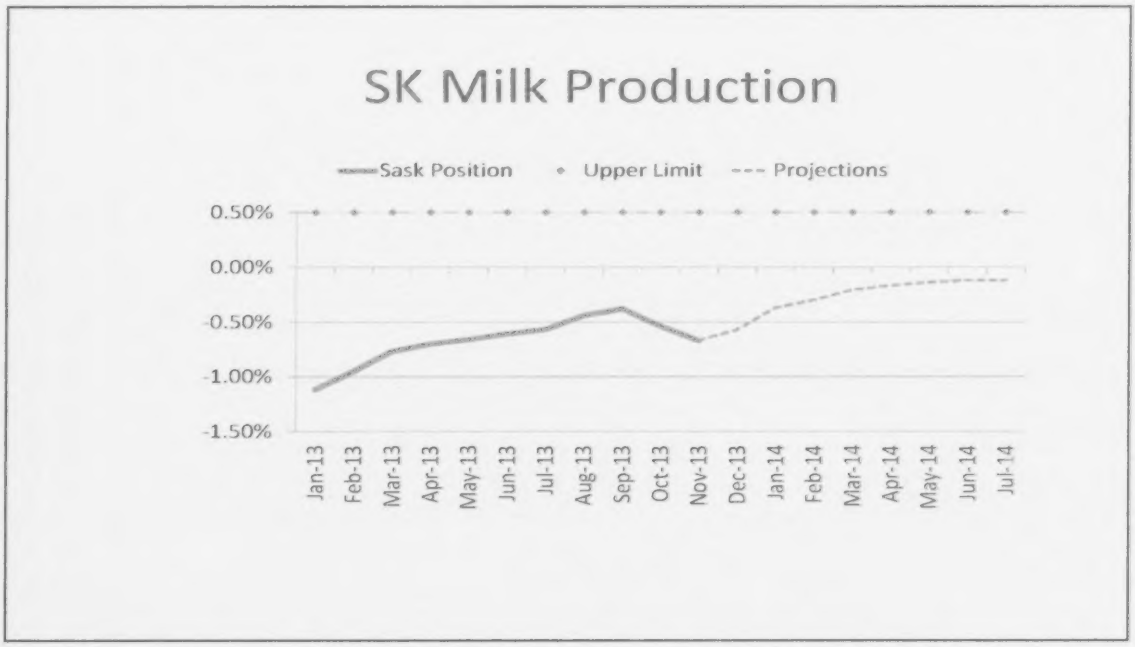
Elvin was a District Delegate, then a Director, and finally the President of the Dairy Producers Cooperative Limited (DPCL). While on the DPCL Board, Elvin was a driving force in changing quota management policies in place in the mid-1980s. The reformed policies he successfully championed are still used by the dairy industry to this day. His strong leadership, gentle management style and persuasive logic were all applied in order to achieve the lasting changes to quota management policies.

Elvin served as a Director on the Saskatchewan Milk Producers Association, which amalgamated with DPCL and the Saskatchewan Dairy Foundation to form the Dairy Farmers of Saskatchewan (DFS). Elvin then served as a Director and the first Vice-President for the DFS.

Elvin also served as the Saskatchewan representative to the Dairy Farmers of Canada from 1987 to 1995, and became the 2nd Vice-President.

When DFS and the Milk Control Board were reorganized as a producer marketing board, Elvin was involved as a Director of DFC and served as a Director on the Interim Board for the marketing board.

In addition to this amazing service directly to the dairy industry organizations, Elvin also provided leadership in his local community and worked hard to ensure the well-being of friends and neighbours. Elvin was first and foremost a farmer, in the noblest sense of the word. He was a lifelong builder and a strong leader in both his personal and public lives. For his contributions to agriculture and community and Canadian quality of life, Elvin was presented with the Governor General's Commemorative Medal on the 125th anniversary of Confederation.



Please complete the surveys that came with this newsletter!

I know – I really do – that everyone is very busy (especially with Christmas around the corner), and filling out surveys is generally the last thing you want to do (it doesn't make it on to the priority list generally).

Having said that though… please, please do take just a moment to fill out and return the included survey on the Annual Dairy Conference (after all, it's your conference – we want to make it the best it can be!) and on the antibiotic usage (a very important topic for all livestock industries right now).

Thank you very much in advance for taking just a couple of minutes to respond!

QUOTA LISTING or CLASSIFIED AD SERVICE

SaskMilk offers a free quota listing service as part of its Newsletter. Anyone wishing to sell or purchase quota and/or cows or miscellaneous dairy equipment is welcome to contact the SaskMilk office at (306) 949-6999. All prices and negotiations will be independent of SaskMilk. **Please note that ads will be posted in two issues and will then be removed unless SaskMilk is notified otherwise.**

Classifieds

- Are you building a new barn or renovating? Talk to us – we could save you money on milking equipment or gel mats **Contact Wouter #306-860-7056**

SASKMILK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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